

**Office of Financial Institutions**  
**MODEM USE**

**I. Purpose:**

Network security is enhanced by eliminating or removing unnecessary access points to the internal network. Modems on network-attached personal computers essentially circumvent the enterprise firewall system by creating additional unguarded entry points to the internal network. Hackers often exploit this vulnerability to gain access to the internal secure network.

**II. Policy:**

Modem hardware attached to or installed in desktop computer systems connected to the network is prohibited. Additionally, notebook users are prohibited from using simultaneous connections via the modem and the network interface.

**III. Scope:**

OFI IT will maintain compliance under the authority of the Office of Information Technology pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 39:15.1, et seq. OFI IT will prevent employees from establishing network connections that may jeopardize the security of internal networks and network assets. Relative to network-attached desktop personal computers, best practices indicate that network security is enhanced by the removal of modems.

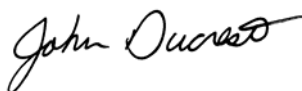
**IV. Responsibilities:**

OFI IT will:

- A. Ensure all internal/external modem hardware is removed from network-attached desktop computers.
- B. Prohibit the installation and use of modem hardware in network-attached desktop computers.
- C. Govern the use of notebook computers.
- D. Periodically verify compliance with this policy.

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**APPROVED BY:**



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**John Ducrest, CPA  
Commissioner**

May 9, 2008

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**Date**

*This information was extracted in part from the Office of Information Technology Policy  
IT-POL-009 Modem Use.*